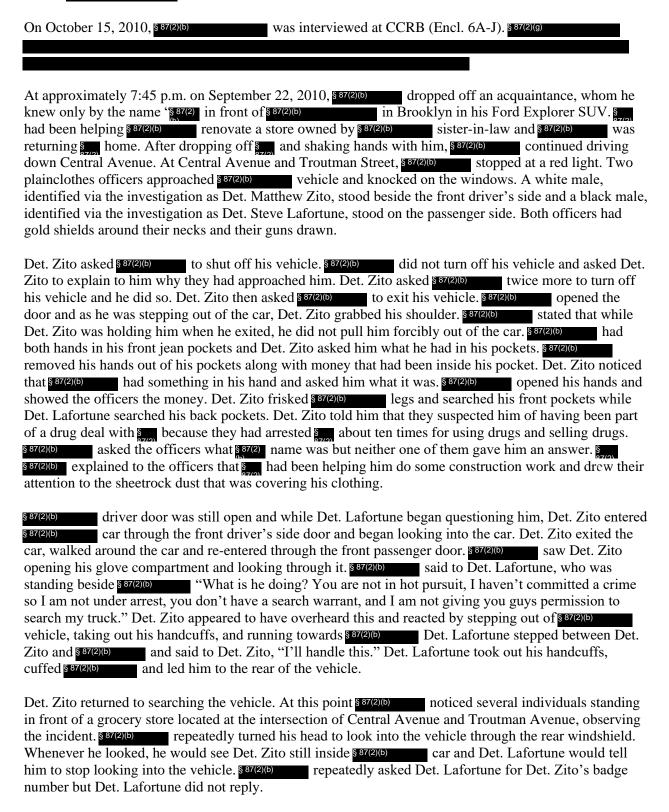
# CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:		Force		Discourt.	☐ U.S	<b>5.</b>
Alexander Opoku-Agyemang		Team # 5	201013036	Ø	Abuse		O.L.	☐ Inju	ıry
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:		F	Precinct:	18 N	Io. SOL	EO S	OL
Wednesday, 09/22/2010 7:45 PM		Troutman Street and C	entral Avenue		83	3/2	2/2012	3/22/2	2012
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:	:	Date/Time Received at CCRB				
Fri, 09/24/2010 3:29 AM		CCRB	On-line website		Fri, 09/24/2010 3:29 AM				
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess						
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command						
1. DT3 Steve Lafortune	02570	928609	NARCBBN						
2. DT3 Matthew Zito	04038	937792	NARCBBN						
000 ()	4.77				т	4. 4	D		
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on			Inve	estigate	or <b>Kec</b> or	nmendat	non
A.DT3 Matthew Zito	O	Det. Matthew Zito stoppe was an occup			Inve	estigate	or Recor	nmendat	lion
` ,	Abuse: D	Det. Matthew Zito stoppe	oant. oped the car in which	h	Inve	estigat	or Recor	nmendat	non
A.DT3 Matthew Zito	Abuse: Γ § 87(2)(b)  Abuse: Γ § 87(2)(b)	Det. Matthew Zito stoppe was an occup Det. Steve Lafortune stop	pant.  pped the car in which  pant.	h	Inve	estigate	or Recor	nmendat	non
A.DT3 Matthew Zito B.DT3 Steve Lafortune	Abuse: D § 87(2)(b)  Abuse: D § 87(2)(b)  Abuse: D	Det. Matthew Zito stoppe was an occup Det. Steve Lafortune stop was an occup	oant. oped the car in whicl oant. his gun.	h	Inve	estigate	or Recor	nmendat	lion
A.DT3 Matthew Zito  B.DT3 Steve Lafortune  C.DT3 Matthew Zito	Abuse: D \$ 87(2)(b)  Abuse: D \$ 87(2)(b)  Abuse: D Abuse: D	Det. Matthew Zito stoppe was an occup Det. Steve Lafortune stop was an occup Det. Matthew Zito drew	oant.  oped the car in which  oant.  his gun.  w his gun.	h	Inve	estigat	or Recor	nmendat	cion
A.DT3 Matthew Zito B.DT3 Steve Lafortune C.DT3 Matthew Zito D.DT3 Steve Lafortune	Abuse: D \$87(2)(b)  Abuse: D \$87(2)(b)  Abuse: D Abuse: D	Det. Matthew Zito stoppe was an occup Det. Steve Lafortune stop was an occup Det. Matthew Zito drew Det. Steve Lafortune drev	oant.  oped the car in which  oant.  his gun.  w his gun.  d <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup>	h	Inve	estigato	or Recor	nmendat	non
A.DT3 Matthew Zito B.DT3 Steve Lafortune C.DT3 Matthew Zito D.DT3 Steve Lafortune E.DT3 Matthew Zito	Abuse: D \$87(2)(b)  Abuse: D \$87(2)(b)  Abuse: D Abuse: D Abuse: D	Det. Matthew Zito stoppe was an occup Det. Steve Lafortune stop was an occup Det. Matthew Zito drew Det. Steve Lafortune drew Det. Matthew Zito frisker	oant.  oped the car in which cant.  his gun.  w his gun.  d \$87(2)(b)  and \$87(2)(b)	h		stigato	or Recor	nmendat	lion
A.DT3 Matthew Zito B.DT3 Steve Lafortune C.DT3 Matthew Zito D.DT3 Steve Lafortune E.DT3 Matthew Zito F.DT3 Matthew Zito	Abuse: Estate Es	Det. Matthew Zito stoppe was an occup Det. Steve Lafortune stop was an occup Det. Matthew Zito drew Det. Steve Lafortune drew Det. Matthew Zito frisker Det. Matthew Zito search	poant.  pped the car in which coant.  his gun.  whis gun.  d \$87(2)(b)  and \$87(2)(b)  reched \$87(2)(b)  and the car in which	h	Inve	stigato	or Recor	nmendat	cion
A.DT3 Matthew Zito B.DT3 Steve Lafortune C.DT3 Matthew Zito D.DT3 Steve Lafortune E.DT3 Matthew Zito F.DT3 Matthew Zito G.DT3 Steve Lafortune	Abuse: Estate Estate Abuse: Estate Abuse: EAbuse: EAbu	Det. Matthew Zito stoppe was an occup Det. Steve Lafortune stop was an occup Det. Matthew Zito drew Det. Steve Lafortune drew Det. Matthew Zito frisker Det. Matthew Zito search Det. Steve Lafortune search Det. Matthew Zito search	poant.  pped the car in which coant.  his gun.  whis gun.  d \$87(2)(b)  and \$87(2)(b)  reched \$87(2)(b)  and the car in which	h		stigato	or Recor	nmendat	cion

# **Case Summary**

	September 24, 2010, §87(2)(5) filed the following complaint via the CCRB online website ncl. 5A-D).
inte	approximately 7:45 p.m. on September 22, 2010, \$87(2)(5) vehicle was stopped at the ersection of Troutman Street and Central Avenue in Brooklyn by Det. Steve Lafortune and Det. atthew Zito. The following allegations resulted:
•	Allegation A – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito stopped the car in which §87(2)(b)
•	was an occupant.  Allegation B – Abuse of Authority – Det. Steve Lafortune stopped the car in which \$87(2)(5)
	was an occupant. § 87(2)(g)
•	Allegation C – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito drew his gun.
•	Allegation D – Abuse of Authority – Det. Steve Lafortune drew his gun.
	g 01/2)(g)
•	Allegation E – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito frisked § 87(2)(b) § 87(2)(g)
•	Allegation F – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito searched \$87(2)(b)
•	Allegation G – Abuse of Authority – Det. Steve Lafortune searched §87(2)(b)
•	Allegation H – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito searched the car in which §87(2)(b)
	was an occupant. § 87(2)(g)
•	§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)
	Results of Investigation
<u>Ci</u>	vilian Statement(s)
	Complainant/Victim: § 87(2)(b)
•	is a 5'11" tall, 200 pound, \$87(2)(b) -old Hispanic male with black hair and brown eyes.
	§ 87(2)(b)
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## **CCRB Testimony**



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Det. Zito exited §87(2)(b) vehicle and asked him if he had any ID on him. §87(2)(b) began to reply,
"I don't have it on me, it's" before §87(2)(b) could finish his reply, Det. Zito shouted, "That's it, we
are locking him up for no ID." \$87(2)(b) explained to Det. Lafortune that his ID was inside another pair
of pants inside the vehicle. Det. Lafortune relayed this information to Det. Zito and Det. Zito re-entered
vehicle. After a few more minutes, Det. Zito stepped out of the car and told Det. Lafortune
to not uncuff § 87(2)(b) Det. Lafortune shook his head and removed the handcuffs from § 87(2)(b)
hands. §87(2)(b) asked Det. Lafortune for his badge number and Det. Zito's badge number. Det.
Lafortune provided his own name and badge number but refused to provide Det. Zito's information. The
officers walked back into their vehicle, with \$87(2)(b) license and registration in Det. Zito's hands.
stated that at some point during their interactions Det. Zito threatened to take him "to Central
Booking" but §87(2)(b) did not recall when in the incident this took place or what the context was.
····
When \$87(2)(b) returned to his vehicle, he found his money and his cards, which had been in his
wallet, Which he had left in the car, strewn all over the front seats in the vehicle. His car key, which he
had left in the ignition, was underneath the driver's seat. The glove compartment was open and the things
that had been in the compartment were also strewn on the seats and on the floor of the vehicle.
phone, which he had left on his console, was also on the floor. §87(2)(b) picked up his phone
and took a picture of the officers' vehicle. Det. Lafortune gave \$87(2)(b) license and registration back
to him and the officers drove off.

# **Attempts to Contact Civilians**

Investigators conducted field work in the neighborhood around the intersection of Central Avenue and Troutman Street on December 23, 2010. There were two grocery stores located at this intersection, Los Primos Grocery Store (Encl. 3B) and Jaquez Food Coorp (Encl. 3C). The investigators spoke with the owners of both grocery stores and the staff who were on duty on September 22, 2010. None of them recalled this incident. Video cameras were observed on 105 Central Avenue, the building that contained Los Primos Grocery Store. The contact information for the superintendent of the building, \$87(2)(6) was obtained during the canvass. On January 3, 2011, the CCRB contacted \$87(2)(6) who stated that the cameras around 105 Central Avenue were non-functioning decoys.

# **NYPD Statement(s):**

## **Subject Officer: DET. MATTHEW ZITO**

- Det. Zito is a \$87(2)(b) -old, 6'2" tall, 240 pound white male with brown hair and brown eyes.
- Det. Zito worked from 2:27 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on September 22, 2010, assigned to Brooklyn North Narcotics enforcement in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct with Det. Steve Lafortune. They were in plainclothes and assigned to an unmarked blue minivan #7748.

#### Memo Book

Det. Zito's memo book (Encl. 7A-C) has an entry indicating that at 7:40 p.m. he stopped vehicle, license plate #\$87(2)(6) in front of 105 Central Avenue on suspicion of a drug sale. There is a note that a UF250 was filed for the stop.

#### **CCRB Testimony**

On February 9, 2011, Det. Zito was interviewed at the CCRB (Encl. 7D-F).

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Precinct when Det. Zito, who was the driver, saw an SUV that was one or two car-lengths in front of them slow down and pull over to the side of the street. Det. Zito did not recall where this took place. As Det. Zito drove by the SUV, he saw, through an open side window, an individual in the driver's seat, who he later identified as \$87(2)(6) pass an object, which Det. Zito could not observe, to another individual who was sitting in the front passenger seat. The passenger exited the SUV and quickly walked off. When the passenger exited the vehicle, Det. Zito recognized him as an individual that members of his command had arrested on previous occasions for drug possession and sale. This led Det. Zito to believe that a drug transaction had occurred between \$87(2)(6) and the passenger. Det. Zito decided to follow vehicle instead of the passenger. Det. Zito could not recall the passenger's name and was not sure if he had ever actually personally arrested the passenger.
Det. Zito followed \$87(2)(b) and at the intersection of Troutman Street and Central Avenue he turned on the flashing lights and \$87(2)(b) stopped his vehicle. Det. Zito could not recall how long he followed \$87(2)(b) before pulling over his vehicle. Det. Zito and Det. Lafortune exited their vehicle and approached \$87(2)(b) vehicle. Det. Zito approached the driver's side of the vehicle while Det. La Fortune approached the passenger's side. Neither Det. Zito nor Det. Lafortune had their gun drawn at this time or at any other point in time during this incident.
When he reached the driver's window, Det. Zito pulled out his shield, identified himself as a police officer, and asked \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ to exit the vehicle. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ exited the vehicle immediately voluntarily. Det. Zito asked \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ to step out of the car "just to be safe." \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ appeared upset that the officers had stopped him and he argued with them while moving his hands angrily. Det. Zito did not recall what \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ was saying and could not describe the movements that \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ was making with his hands. Det. Zito noticed that \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ had money inside his hand. Det. Zito asked \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ had been involved in a drug transaction with the passenger. Det. Zito asked \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ about his interaction with the passenger and \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ replied that the passenger had owed him money and had paid him back in the car. Det. Zito proceeded to frisk \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ waistband, pant-legs, and pockets for weapons. Det. Zito stated that he did this for his safety because the combination of \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ disgruntlement and the possibility that he had been involved in a drug transaction made him nervous. Det. Zito found no weapons on \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ and did not recall having reached his hands into any of \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ pockets. He did not recall whether or not \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)(0)}\$ had his hands in his pockets at any point during their interactions.
Det. Zito entered into the front compartment of SUV and searched the area underneath and around the front driver and passenger seats and the middle console for weapons. He did not recall opening the glove compartment. He searched the vehicle because the combination of ST(2)(b) disgruntlement and the possibility that he had been involved in a drug transaction made him believe that there might be a weapon in the car. Det. Zito found no weapons or narcotics inside ST(2)(b) vehicle and did not remove any objects from the vehicle or search any articles of clothing inside the vehicle.
Det. Zito did not recall whether or not \$87(2)(b) was handcuffed at any point in time during this incident. He denied having threatened to arrest \$87(2)(b) or take him down to Central Booking at any point during the incident. He recalled having asked \$87(2)(b) for an ID but he did not recall when in the incident this occurred or from where \$87(2)(b) produced the ID, though he recalled that \$87(2)(b) did produce one. Det. Zito stated that he filled out a UF250 for the stop of \$87(2)(b) and filed it at the 83 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

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#### **Subject Officer: DET. STEVE LAFORTUNE**

- Det. Lafortune is a \$87(2)(b) -old, 5'10" tall, 220 pound black male with black hair and brown eyes.
- Det. Lafortune worked from 2:27 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on September 22, 2010, assigned to Brooklyn North Narcotics enforcement in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct with Det. Mathew Zito. They were in plainclothes and assigned to an unmarked blue minivan #7748.

#### Memo Book

Det. Lafortune's memo book (Encl. 8A-C) has an entry indicating that at 7:20 p.m. he stopped a car at the intersection of Central Avenue and Troutman Street. There is a note that a UF250 was filed for the stop.

# **CCRB Testimony**

On February 9, 2011, Det. Lafortune was interviewed at the CCRB (Encl. 8D-F).

As Det. Zito and Det. Lafortune were patrolling in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, Det. Lafortune saw a vehicle in front of them slow down and pull over to the side of the street. Det. Lafortune did not recall what street this occurred on. As Det. Zito drove by the vehicle, Det. Lafortune looked into the vehicle through a window. He observed the driver, who he later identified as \$87(2)(b) pass what appeared to be money to an individual in the front passenger seat. The passenger exited the vehicle and walked away. When the passenger exited the vehicle, Det. Lafortune recognized him as an individual that members of his command had arrested on previous occasions for drug possession and sale. This led Det. Lafortune to believe that a drug transaction had been conducted between \$87(2)(b) and the individual inside the vehicle. Det. Lafortune could not recall the individual's name.

Det. Lafortune and Det. Zito followed the vehicle and pulled it over at the intersection of Troutman Street and Central Avenue in Brooklyn, a block or two from where they had initially observed it. Det. Lafortune and Det. Zito exited their vehicle and approached \$87(2)(6) vehicle. Det. Zito approached the driver's side while Det. Lafortune approached the passenger side. Neither of them had their gun drawn at this time or any point during this incident. When they reached the windows, Det. Zito asked \$87(2)(6) for ID.

\$87(2)(6) provided his driver's license and Det. Zito instructed \$87(2)(6) to exit the vehicle.

exited, Det. Zito spoke to him. Det. Lafortune did not recall what was said between Det. Zito and § 87(2)(b) Det. Lafortune then told § 87(2)(b) to step to the front of the vehicle. Det. Lafortune then spoke with \$87(2)(b) asked Det. Lafortune why he was being stopped and Det. Lafortune replied that it was because they were conducting an investigation. §87(2)(b) then asked him for his name and the name of his partner. Det. Lafortune provided his name and shield number to \$87(2)(b) but did not provide Det. Zito's name. Det. Lafortune frisked \$87(2)(b) from his shoulders down to his waistband. Det. Lafortune believed \$87(2)(b) posed a potential threat to their safety because he had been stopped on the suspicion of having committed a felony, criminal sale of a controlled substance. Det. Lafortune did not feel anything that he believed to be a weapon while frisking \$87(2)(b) and did not place his hands into any of \$37(2)(b) pockets. He did not recall observing Det. Zito frisk or search \$87(2)(b) Det. Lafortune stated that he saw Det. Zito looking into \$87(2)(b) vehicle through the driver's side door but he did not observe any part of his body enter \$87(2)(b) vehicle. Det. Lafortune initially stated that \$87(2)(6) was cuffed during this incident but then, upon further questioning, stated that he did not recall whether or not \$87(2)(6) was cuffed. Det. Lafortune did not hear Det. Zito tell \$87(2)(b) that he was under arrest, threaten to arrest him, or threaten to take him to Central Booking. He believed that Det. Zito filed a UF250 report for the stop of [8] 87(2)(b)

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# NYPD Document(s)

# 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Handwritten UF250 Stop and Frisk log Receipt for Request to 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct

The Handwritten Stop and Frisk Report Log from the 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct (Encl. 9A-D), covering the dates of September 19, 2010, to September 27, 2010, does not list a UF250 for \$87(2)(5) or a UF250 filed by either Det. Zito or Det. Lafortune.

A request made to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct via IAB (Encl. 12H), requesting a UF250 Stop and Frisk report for was returned with the notation that no such UF250 was on record at the precinct.

# **Status of Civil Proceedings**

• has not filed a Notice of Claim with the City of New York with regards to this incident as of April 18, 2011 (Encl. 11C).

#### Civilian(s) CCRB History

• This is the first CCRB complaint filed by § 87(2)(b) (Encl. 2D).

#### **Subject Officer(s) CCRB History**

- Det. Steve Lafortune has been a member of the service for nine years and there are no substantiated CCRB allegations against him (Encl. 2A).
- Det. Matthew Zito has been a member of the service for six years and there is one substantiated CCRB allegation against him (Encl. 2B-2C):
  - o In regards to CCRB case number 201001754, allegations of vehicle stop, vehicle search, and frisk were substantiated against Det. Zito. An NYPD disposition has yet to be entered for this case.

## Conclusion

# **Identification of Subject Officer(s)**

Det. Zito and Det. Lafortune acknowledged having stopped \$87(2)(b) vehicle on September 22, 2010. Det. Zito and Det. Lafortune are easily distinguished and there is no confusion as to which officer \$87(2)(b) makes individual allegations against. \$87(2)(g)

# **Allegations not Pleaded**

• Det. Lafortune testified that he frisked \$87(2)(6) during the vehicle stop. However, because \$27(2)(6) made no such allegation against him, no frisk allegation was pleaded against Det. Lafortune.

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# **Investigative Findings and Recommendations**

Allegation A – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito stopped the car in which was an occupant.

Allegation B – Abuse of Authority – Det. Steve Lafortune stopped the car in which was an occupant.

Det. Zito and Det. Lafortune testified that while driving somewhere in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, neither recalled specifically where, they made their initial observation of they observed vehicle pull over to the side of the street. While driving by vehicle, they saw, through the side windows of vehicle, money passed from a passenger in the front passenger seat to Neither officer testified to having seen an object passed in exchange for the money.

The passenger immediately exited the vehicle and walked away. Both officers observed that the passenger resembled an individual who other officers from their command had arrested on previous occasions for drug-related offenses. Neither officer, however, could provide any details about the individual or recall if they themselves had arrested the individual before. From these observations they surmised that a drug sale may have taken place between and the passenger and proceeded to stop his vehicle. Det. Zito asked safe(2)(b) actually testified he did so only after Det. Zito asked twice more for him to exit his vehicle. Det. Zito observed a \$20 bill in his hand and questioned about his interactions with the passenger.

Safe(2)(b) according to Det. Lafortune, told the officers that the passenger had owed him money and had paid him prior to exiting the vehicle. Det. Zito proceeded to frisk safe(2)(b) and then search his vehicle.

A vehicle stop and subsequent detention of a driver requires that officers have a reasonable belief that a traffic infraction has occurred or criminality is afoot. People v. Barreras 677 N.Y.S.2d 526 (1998 - 1<sup>st</sup> Dept) (Encl. 1A-E). The question then is whether, given the totality of circumstances, the observations made by Det. Zito and Det. Lafortune constituted a reasonable suspicion that service had been involved in a drug transaction.

<u>People v. Tyler</u> 30 Misc. 3d 1218A (Sup. Ct. NY County – 2011) (Encl. 1H-K) regards a circumstance in which the court ruled that officers would have been permitted to approach the defendant to acquire explanatory information but were not permitted to do what they ultimately did, which was to detain and then arrest him. In that instance, officers observed two individuals, neither of whom was the defendant Milo Tyler, make a drug transaction. Shortly thereafter, officers observed one of the individuals shake hands with Mr. Tyler. The officers did not observe any objects passed between them and did not testify to there having been anything unusual about the handshake. The officers arrested the individual whom Mr. Tyler had shaken hands and then chased after Mr. Tyler, stopped him, and arrested him.



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§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation C – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito drew his gun.  Allegation D – Abuse of Authority – Det. Steve Lafortune drew his gun.
alleged that Det. Zito and Det. Lafortune had their guns drawn, though not pointed, as they approached his vehicle. Both officers denied having had their guns drawn while approaching \$87(2)(b) vehicle or having drawn their guns at any point during this incident.
Allegation E – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito frisked 887(2)(b)
Det. Zito stated that he frisked \$87(2)(b) and searched his vehicle for weapons because he feared for his safety due to the fact that \$87(2)(b) appeared to be upset that he had been pulled over and that individuals who are involved in drug transactions often carry guns.
It is permissible for an officer to frisk an individual only if the officers has a particularized reasonable suspicion that an individual is armed and potentially dangerous. <u>People v. Gonzalez</u> 743. N.Y.S.2d 112 (2002) (Encl. 1Q-R). §87(2)(9)
Allegation F – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito searched 887(2)(b) Allegation G – Abuse of Authority – Det. Steve Lafortune searched 887(2)(b)
Both officers stated that no weapons were found on \$87(2)(b) during his frisk and did not recall having subsequently reached into \$87(2)(b) pockets.

Allegation H – Abuse of Authority – Det. Matthew Zito searched the car in which \$87(2)(5)

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# was an occupant. It is undisputed that Det. Zito searched \$87(2)(b) car. Det. Zito stated that he searched the vehicle because the combination of \$87(2)(b) disgruntlement and the possibility that he had been involved in a drug transaction made him believe that there might be a weapon in the car. The justification for the search of a car must be predicated on probable cause to arrest an occupant coupled with a reasonable belief that the vehicle contains contraband or a weapon. Barreras (Encl. 1A). Furthermore, in order to justify a search of a vehicle for weapons, the prospect of there being a weapon in the car must be "substantial." People v. Carvey 89. NY.2d 707 (1997) (Encl. 1L-P). Team: 5 Investigator: Alexander Opoku-Agyemang August 19, 2011 Signature Print Date Supervisor: \_ Title/Signature Print Date Reviewer:

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Date

Date

Print

Print

Reviewer:

Title/Signature

Title/Signature